

Message Text

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ACTION PA-02

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O 061402Z AUG 78 ZFF-6
FM USDEL SECRETARY IN JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE
USICA WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL ALEXANDRIA IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS SECTO 09011

SECSTATE FOR PA AND PA/PRESS
DEPARTMENT PASS NSC FOR DR. BRZEZINSKI AND WHITE HOUSE FOR MR. POWELL

USICA FOR VOA/PN, PGM/PP, PGM/RC, NEA

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (VANCE, CYRUS)
SUBJECT: SECSTATE VANCE/PM BEGIN'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING
 MEETING HELD AT PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN JERUSALEM,
 AUGUST 6, 1978

1. FOLLOWING IS THE TEXT OF REMARKS BY SECRETARY VANCE AND PRIME
MINISTER BEGIN TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THEIR MEETING IN THE MORNING
OF AUGUST 6 AT THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE IN JERUSALEM:

2. BEGIN: MR. SECRETARY?

3. VANCE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH MR. PRIME MINISTER. THE PRIME
MINISTER AND I AND MEMBERS OF HIS CABINET MET THIS MORNING ALONG
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WITH MY COLLEAGUES. WE HAD A GOOD DISCUSSION COVERING A NUMBER
OF DIFFERENT SUBJECTS. WE WILL BE CONTINUING OUR DISCUSSIONS AGAIN
THIS AFTERNOON AND PROBABLY IN THE MORNING AS WELL.

4. VANCE: MAY I TAKE ONE TO TWO QUESTIONS?

5. Q: (INAUDIBLE)

6. VANCE: I AM NOT GOING TO GO INTO THE DETAILS OF THE DISCUSSIONS WHICH I HAVE HAD WITH THE CABINET. LET ME SAY THAT I BELIEVE IT'S BEEN A USEFUL DISCUSSION ONLY.

7. BEGIN: I WELCOME DURING THE MEETING OF OUR DEFENSE COUNCIL THE SECRETARY OF STATE, OUR DEAR FRIEND MR. VANCE TO ISRAEL, TO JERUSALEM AND AFFIRM THAT HE TOOK UPON HIMSELF THE VERY DIFFICULT TASK TO BRING ABOUT A RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS WITH EGYPT. THIS HEARTFELT WELCOME IS ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL, TO OUR DEAR FRIEND THE SECRETARY OF STATE MR. VANCE. THE SECRETARY BROUGHT ME A HANDWRITTEN, PERSONAL MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CARTER. BOTH OF US ARE OBLIGED NOT TO REVEAL THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE AND I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE MESSAGE HE DELIVERED TO ME, AND OF COURSE I EXPRESS ALSO MY GRATITUDE TO THE PRESIDENT. WE WILL CONTINUE OUR TALKS AT FOUR O'CLOCK AND TOMORROW, AND WE EXPRESS OUR HOPE THAT THE SECRETARY WILL SUCCEED IN BRINGING BACK HE TALKS BETWEEN EGYPT AND US SO THAT THEY CAN BE RESUMED AND THAT THE PEACEMAKING PROCESS CAN BE RENEWED. THANK YOU LADIES AND GENTLEMEN.

8. VANCE: THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

9. Q: (INAUDIBLE - CONCERNED POSSIBLE TRIPARTITE MEETING.)

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10. BEGIN: I CAN'T SAY ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT THE PRESIDENT WROTE TO ME PERSONALLY. YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT.

11. Q: (INAUDIBLE)

12. BEGIN: WELL, YOUR QUESTIONS ARE VERY CLEVER. THANK YOU.

13. FOLLOWING IS THE TRANSLATION FROM HEBREW OF PRIME MINISTER BEGIN'S REMARKS TO THE PRESS FOLLOWING THE ABOVE STATEMENTS, AFTER SECRETARY VANCE' SDEPARTURE.

14. Q: MR. PRIME MINISTER, IN THE MIDST OF THE TALKS WITH CYRUS VANCE, HOW WOULD YOU SUM UP THE PRESENT MISSION OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE?

15. BEGIN: THIS IS A VERY DIFFICULT AND IMPORTANT MISSION, AND IN TAKING IT UPON HIMSELF, SECRETARY OF STATE VANCE IS SHOWING COURAGE IN A PUBLIC CAUSE: OF THAT THERE IS NO DOUBT. BECAUSE FOR THE PRESENT THERE ARE TOALLY NEGATIVE EGYPTIAN STATEMENTS, AND THESE STATEMENTS IN FACT FRUSTRATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A RESUMPTION OF THE TALKS BETWEEN US, WHICH WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE RESUMED. BUT PERHAPS HE WILL SUCCEED: ONE MUST NEVER DESPAIR. THUS WE WELCOMED HIM HERE;

WE WISH HIM SUCCESS IN ALEXANDRIA. WE WILL HOLD FURTHER TALKS THIS AFTERNOON, AND PROBABLY TOMORROW MORNING AS WELL.

16. TODAY'S TALK WAS VERY SERIOUS, BUT YOU MUST UNDERSTAND THAT BECAUSE OF THE DELICACY OF THE ISSUES I CANNOT INFORM YOU OF THE CONTENTS OF THE TANK, JUST AS I CANNOT GIVE YOU ANY INFORMATION CONCERNING THE LETTER WHICH THE SECRETARY OF STATE GAVE ME FROM PRESIDENT CARTER, HANDWRITTEN BY HIM. I EXPRESSED MY THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT AND TO THE SECRETARY FOR THE VERY SENDING OF THE LETTEE.

17. Q: NONETHELESS, HOW WOULD YOU, AT THIS STAGE, ASSESS THE PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUATION OF THE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT?

13. BEGIN: LET US ALL BE OPTIMISTIC. THE EGYPTIAN DECLARATIONS UNCLASSIFIED

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ARE VERY NEGATIVE, FROM THIS MORNING. AS YOU PROBABLY NOTICED, THEY ALSO ATTACK ME IN THE GRAVEST MANNER. I DO NOT REACT BECAUSE I DO NOT WANT TO EXCERBATE THE SITUATION. YOU KNOW, FROM YOUR EXPERIENCE IN (COVERING) THE KNESSET, THAT I AM IN FACT CAPABLE OF REACTING, BUT IN THIS CASE I PREFER TO REMAIN SILENT, BECAUSE WHAT IS AT STAKE IS PEACE--OUR HOPE, OUR ASPIRATION. SO ONE NEED NOT DESPAIR BEFORE ANY DIFFICULTY, AND ONE SHOULD NOT CLOSE ANY DOOR.

19. WE SHALL SEE WHAT WEDNESDAY BRINGS. THE SECRETARY PROMISED ME THAT ONE OF HIS COLLEAGUES WHO WILL ACCOMPANY HIM TO ALEXANDRIA WILL COME HERE WHEN HE (VANCE) IS ALREADY EN ROUTE HOME. SO ON WEDNESDAY WE WILL NO DOUBT KNOW WHAT EGYPT'S CONCRETE REPLY IS.

20. Q: HAS THERE BEEN ANY TALK OF A TRIP BY YOURSELF AND PRESIDENT SADAT TO THE U.S.?

21. BEGIN: I ALREADY SAID THAT THIS TIME I CANNOT REVEAL MATTERS FROM THE DISCUSSION OR FROM THE PRESIDENT'S LETTER. YOU WILL HAVE TO BE PATIENT, GENTLEMEN: THERE IS NO CHOICE.

22. Q: IS IT YOUR ASSESSMENT THAT A MEETING BETWEEN YOURSELF AND PRESIDENTS CARTER AND SADAT IS IMMINENT?

23. BEGIN: I CANNOT REPLY TO THAT QUESTION. I HAVE SAID THAT EVERYTHING HAVING TO DO WITH THE NEGOTIATIONS IS VERY DELICATE, SO DON'T PRESS ME, BECAUSE IN THE END I'LL PRESS BACK.

24. Q: IS THERE ANY POSSIBILITY OF RENEWING THE TALKS WITH EGYPT?

25. BEGIN: IN OUR VIEW, THERE IS A SALIENT BASIS FOR RESUMING THE TALKS.

26. Q: IS A SUMMIT MEETING WITH MR. SADAT UNDER PRESIDENT UNCLASSIFIED

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CARTER'S AEGIS A LIVE POSSIBILITY AT THIS POINT?

27. BEGIN: IT WASN'T MENTIONED DURING OUR DISCUSSIONS.

28. Q: WHAT WOULD BE YOUR REACION IF THERE WERE A PROPOSAL FOR
A SUMMIT AMONG PRIME MINISTER BEGIN, PRESIDENT SADAT AND PRESIDENT
CARTER?

29. BEGIN: I WOULD CONSIDER SUCH A PROPOSAL IN GREAT SERIOUSNESS.

30. Q: WOULD YOU ACCEPT?

31. BEGIN: WELL, I SUPPOSE THAT FOR THE TIME BEING I WILL STAND BY
MY FIRST REPLY BECAUSE THE QUESTION ITSELF IS HYPOTHETICAL, BUT I
WOULD CONSIDER IT WITH GREAT SERIOUSNESS.

VANCE

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